COURSE DETAIL

DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Utrecht University
Program(s) Utrecht University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science History
UCEAP Course Number 141
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK
UCEAP Transcript Title DEMOCRACY ATTACK
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description
The twentieth century was the century of democracy. Democracy had defeated and discredited all of its ideological rivals: fascism, Nazism, and communism. However, this sentiment of democratic optimism has recently turned to doubts and concerns about the fate and future of democracy. Journalists and scholars speak of a “democratic crisis” marked by the rise of populist movements, fractured parliaments, a growing gap between political elites and the people, and the demise of political parties. However, this feeling of a democratic crisis is nothing new. Ever since the establishment of mass democracy in the aftermath of World War I, democracy has appeared to be in constant crisis. In order to understand this paradox, this course investigates the history of twentieth-century democracy. Students learn about the threat that fascism, Nazism, and communism posed to democracy in the interwar period; the anti-system critique of social movements in the 1960s and 1970s; and the rise of populist parties in recent years. They conclude the course with an independent research paper, based on primary source material, of a key historical or current development, event, ideology, party, or individual in the history of democracy since 1918. Examples of potential source materials include political pamphlets, propaganda materials from election campaigns and parliamentary debates, or even newspaper articles and other contributions to public debate.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
GE3V17012

Host Institution Course Title
DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK

Host Institution Course Details
https://osiris.uu.nl/osiris_student_uuprd/OnderwijsCatalogusSelect.do?selectie=...

Host Institution Campus
Humanities

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
History and Art History

Course Last Reviewed
2020-2021

Print